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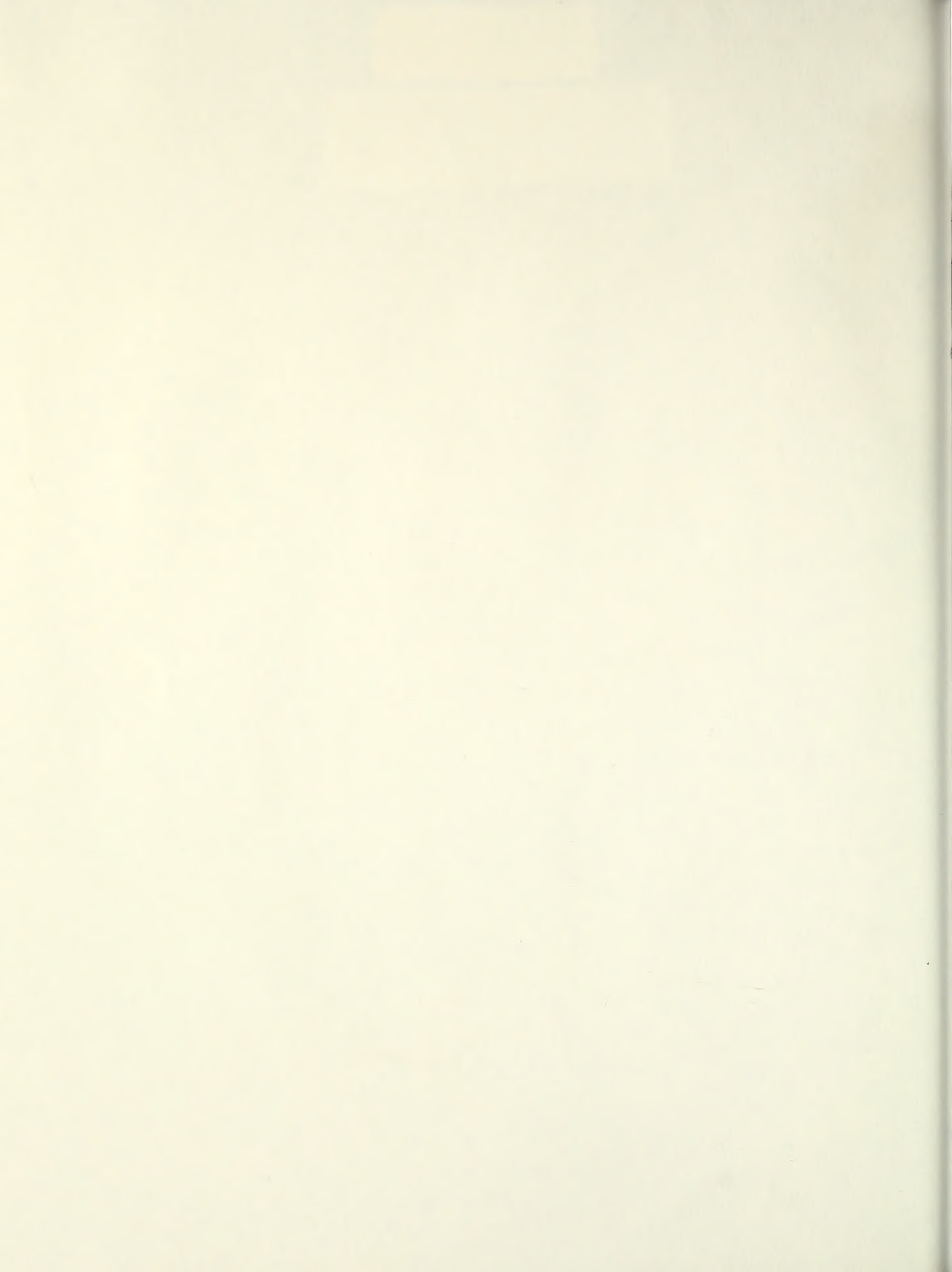
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Wells, James K.  
History of the 31st Indiana  
infantry

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# **HISTORY OF THE 31ST INDIANA INFANTRY**

**By James K. Wells**

[Owned in the 1960s by Arlington High School, Indianapolis]

[Copied in the 1960s for the collection of the Allen County Public Library  
under the direction of Fred J. Reynolds]



Thirty-eight years has come and gone since the breaking out of the rebellion in our Republic. -

In musing upon the events which had transpired a few months prior to the breaking out of the rebellion our minds are refreshed with the thought of an armed rebellion. A protest against constitutional and recognized government. Which was destined to blacken the fair pages of American history.

The war for the Union had its inspiration in love of country and devotion to popular government. The silent but potent thought and force behind the patriotic sentiment of country and flag was the maintainance of law and social order.

If there was any purpose in fighting and dying for a united country it was that the law should be supreme and where the end of legislation should be the enactment of laws which secure the enjoyment of life liberty and the pursuit of



In retrospective view of the war we are reminded that the people of our country were aroused from their revie by the voices in the streets by news boys "crying - Fall of Fort Sumpter - President's Proclamation Call for Seventy-five thousand men; to put down a rebellion.

This announcement startled us, our imagination portraided <sup>the</sup> coming struggle with all its fearful magnitude.

War, civil war, with all its horrors seemed inevitable and even then was ready to burst like a volcano upon the most happy and prosperous nation the sun ever shone upon.

That nation which had by our fathers been brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The great civil war was to test whether that nation so dedicated could long endure.



The spirit stirring drums, the wailing fife, the silver throated bugles and the appeals of orators, filled with an inspiration of love of country and flag, moved the union army in war,

The sad picture filled many an eye with tears and many a heart with sorrow, when soldiers bid farewell to loved ones, mothers with anxious eyes looking through streaming tears after sons, sisters with quivering lips after flushed faced brothers, and the mingled voices of children after fathers as they departed for the dangers of battle, the dread of hospital, or the horrors of prison.

We remember when they left the farm the shop, the office, the store, the factory, the furnace and the peaceful pursuits of home, to perform their part in the great contest of war. We remember when they marched away under the flag of our country, we remember them stepping to the music of war. We remember seeing them enter the great battle.



We remember seeing them in great columns of troops, charging upon the enemy over the fields in front, where the earth was shaken with the roar of artillery.

Where the shot and shell fell around them, where the air was filled with sulphurous gunpowder smoke, where they loaded and shot, their ranks being decimated they closed up, <sup>elbow to elbow</sup> and like iron men with nerves of steel they pushed on till victory was won, and the stars and stripes our national emblem was planted on the citadel of treason.

We had four years of war, four years of weeping homes while dear ones were absent, engaged in the great conflict of the bloody war, four years of strife on the great bloody battle-field, not with a foreign foe, but with our own misguided and infuriated brethren of the South, in our own land and nation, four years of marching and exposure in weary marches under the scorching rays of a Southern sun,



Four years of sleeping under the dripping clouds; four years of hospitals filled with gangrenes and contagious diseases, four years of famines & skeletons & starved and lives tortured out of brave men, and four years of wounded and mangled corpses.

But when the last battle was fought and the victory won, the boys that wore the blue came proudly home from the great battle field carrying under tattered banners and bronzed hands the Ark of the Covenant of our republic, in safety, out of the bloody baptism of the war to be saved forever.

But the roar of conflict never ceases to reverberate in the brain of him who participated in the work upon the great battle field. Whenever his thoughts are called to the subject of the war his mental attitude is that of the battle field. The great panorama of those battle fields is forever moving before his eyes. The mental strain given to his mental being is so terrific for any reaction.



And in his thoughts his mind is refreshed with the thought of the great strife and sacrifices of men living and dead who fought for and defended our country.

A great majority of which have passed over the dark river of death to join the encampment beyond.

If each grave on the great battlefield and in our national Cemeteries had a voice to tell what its silent tenant last saw and heard on earth, we might stand with uncovered heads and hear the whole story of the war.

With those of whom the 3rd. Regt. Ind. vols. associated in the army of the Cumberland, we should hear that one perished in the hospital at Henderson Kentucky when measles and mumps appeared.

And that another suffered and died <sup>at Calhoun</sup> from the effects of exposure and a low grade of camp fever, that another died of disease while wearily waiting for winter to end.



And that another fell on that bloody  
battle-field at Fort Donelson, little  
dreaming that the flag must be carried  
through three more years of blood.

We should hear that  
another fell at the battle of Shiloh,  
when the tide of war had swepted us  
back until within sight of Pittsburg  
standing. We should hear the mingled  
voices from the dying on the battlefield  
between the two contending armies, on  
that dark and dreary night. We should  
hear the patriotic and the triumphant  
shouts of heroic men the next morning  
as they charged the enemy over the bloody  
field in front, amidst the roar of Artillery  
that recoiled over the Tennessee.

We should hear the voices at  
the siege of Corinth Mississippi.

We should  
hear the voices of the diseased and dying  
on the long and fatiguing counter-marches  
under General Buell.



And we should hear the shouts of dying men at the bloody summit, at the hard fought battle of Stone River when victory was won, and Murfreesboro was surrendered by the enemy to General Rosecrans.

We should hear them on the Tullahoma campaign as they moved forward, in one of the most extraordinary rains that ever was known in Tennessee.

We should hear the voices of a thousand heroic dead on the bloody battle field of Chickamauga.

We should hear the voices of the dead and dying men on the Chattanooga and Atlanta campaign, a distance of one hundred miles, where it cost the Union and Confederate armies 60,000 men an average of 600 men to the mile.

Again we should hear the voices of the heroes of the Army of the Cumberland under the command of Gen. Thomas.



as they move back from Atlanta to Nashville Tennessee to annihilate the Confederate army, under the command of General Hood.

We should hear the voices <sup>those</sup> of heroic men as they charged over the sleet and ice and upon the enemy's breast works, the 31<sup>st</sup> Indiana being among the first to climb the rebel works and hold them until Hood's army of 55,000 abandoned.

We should hear the voices of those dead and dying victors when the joyful news of victory reached their ears which left an inspiration of love in their hearts for the country and flag they loved, even when their lives were slowly ebbing away.

We should further hear the voices of the dead and dying on the long march from Nashville to Victoria Texas.

Where the 31<sup>st</sup> Regt. remained until discharge. Having been under fire 137 different days and lost in killed 140, over 300 died of disease and over 300 wounded.



The Grand Old 3rd. Indiana.

Grand in the justice of the  
majestic cause for which it fought;  
grand in the valor, the fortitude  
and heroism which was shown  
through all its defeat and victory;  
grand in the fidelity with which  
the citizens obligations were blended  
with the soldiers memories.

It still sustains the principles it  
carried to victory. Grand because it  
helped to save the life of the Nation.

One thousand of men who were  
enlisted in August 1861. come from  
all points of the Seventh Congressional  
District and rendezvoused in camp Vigo  
at Terre Haute. They laid their lives  
upon the altar of their country.

On the 5th. day of September they  
were mustered into the United States  
Service. They went forth stepping to  
the music of war. We remember them  
as they marched in column through  
the city to the Depot to depart for  
the seat of war.



We come together in reunion to greet each other again and talk over the scenes of the past; And our comrades who rendered service to their country in time of need, in the hour of peril. If we serve no other purpose, will impress upon the minds of the rising generation a profounder and deeper sense of the perils through which we passed to preserve the unity of the Nation. We meet with no desire to boast of our services in the past. We cherish no feelings of animosity or revenge against the men of the South. I know I speak the sentiments of every true soldier when I say whatever pride we have in past, whatever pride we brought back from the battle fields, we joyfully laid it aside upon one altar, and gladly merged the little soldier into a greater one - that of American citizen.

We were citizens before we were soldiers. And when the survivors of the 31st Indiana returned home, they laid off the implements of warfare, and



took up the peaceful industries of life, and meet in organization (reunion) without any danger or expense to the nation. The ties that bind us as late soldiers are patriotic and benevolent. We are citizen soldiers ready if need be to defend our country against its enemies. If Anarchists taking shelter under our shield the American Union, should seek to overturn our institutions, we could be relied upon. And the great mass of men who fought on both sides in our civil war in the United States, would stand for law and order against the assaults of an internal or foreign foe. Our recent unpleasantness with Spain has fully demonstrated that fact. But we trust our service will never again be required on battle-field against foreign or domestic foe.



The 31st Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers. Participated in the following engagements.

Fort Donelson Tennessee. Reached the fort on the morning of the 14th of February 1862. Was assigned for duty in the Third Division commanded by General Lee Wallace. First Brigade commanded by Colonel Charles Cruft.

Engaged the enemy early on the morning of the 15th. Suddenly and before day light our advance pickets <sup>saw the ene-</sup> moving over the snow clad earth, the pickets gave the alarm and they were reinforced at once, and the enemy was baffled in his attempt of surprise.

Early in the morning and on the Right Wing of our army where a brigade of General McClellands men were posted, the enemy first opened their rebel fire from their batteries, then their infantry charged upon the lines of McClellands men. But they were gallantly met by the Illinois troops into the enemy they poured a deadly fire.



Early in the morning, and while the battle raged desperately on the right, our brigade (Cruft's) was hurried to the front. We met some of McClelland's noble men who had been overpowered and compelled to fall back, wounded and bleeding as they retired.

The 31st. had advanced but a few rods from where it met McClelland's men, when we met the gonies pouring forth in masses from the woods. McClelland's men had found the Hornets nest and they came forth with energy and determination to show us their business end, which was sharp and quick. The contest was terrific. The enemy advanced so close that we could see the white of their eyes. We held them at bay in our front until almost surrounded. Not until we saw the danger of being captured were we willing to retire. And even then we refused to turn our backs to them, but made our escape when the enemy was on either side.

to be seen above the valley land.  
The country is in places heavily timbered.  
It takes its name from a small church  
house which stood in its midst.  
A short distance from the Landing  
the road forks, one is called the  
lower Corinth road, the other  
the ridge Corinth road. Beyond  
the battle field the roads are numerous.  
On and near the roads leading from  
Pittsburg Landing to Corinth a few  
miles from the landing, lay five  
divisions of Gen. Grant's army on  
the morning of the battle.

The advance line was composed and  
formed by three divisions, Gen.  
Sherman's, Prentiss', and Maj. Gen.  
McClelland's. Maj. Gen. Smith's  
division commanded by W. H. L. Wallace  
and Gen. Hurlbut's division lay  
between the Landing and the advance  
line. Our line of battle extended  
from Snake creek on the right  
to near Lick creek on the left.  
The center being nearest the enemy.  
Our line of battle was about five miles  
in length and curved outwards from  
the river, our advance line at the <sup>end</sup> ~~corner~~.



left was formed on the Hamburg road north of the crossing of Lick creek. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April there was some Skirmishing with the enemies advance. A brigade was ordered to the front it encountered the enemy and after a spirited action drove them off. On the 5<sup>th</sup> there was Skirmishing along our advanced lines.

On Sunday morning April 6<sup>th</sup> a general engagement was brought on by the rebels first attacking Gen Prentiss' division.

Prentiss' men became alarmed by the sudden attack made by the enemy, but done every thing they could to stay the advance of <sup>the</sup> foe but had to fall back through the heavy woods till they gained a protecting ridge. Hildebrands brigade of Sherman's division succeeded in forming a line of battle, the other two brigades were formed to the right. The rebels soon attacked them and Sherman's whole line on the right became engaged but the heavy columns of rebels soon

about noon. Prentiss, McOlermand  
and Sherman. were driven back  
somewhat shattered and demoralized  
notwithstanding their men had fought  
desperately. but were driven from their  
camps. but the union victory was not  
yet lost. Hurlbut and W. H. S. Wallace  
were making a gallant stand.

At the time when Prentiss and McOlermand  
gave way. Hurlbut and W. H. S. Wallace  
were thrown forward to meet the rebel  
onset. the enemy charged upon the lines  
of Hurlbut and Wallace time and again  
with all the drunken fury of demons  
but as often as they charged. they were  
repulsed. Three times the rebels made a  
desperate <sup>effort</sup> to force Croft's brigade back  
but the raking fire from Croft's men  
was too much for rebel steel. The 31<sup>st</sup>  
Indiana volunteers with the other regiments  
of Croft's brigade went into battle early  
in the morning of April 6<sup>th</sup> and was closely  
engaged all day and was one of the last  
regiments to retire in the evening. and on the  
front line early the next morning until the enemy  
was routed



The casualties of the 21st Regt. in the battle of Shiloh were twenty killed and about one hundred and seven ~~fifty~~ wounded. Maj. Fred Arm and Capt. Geo. Barry killed, Col. Craft wounded.

The casualties of the 31st Regt. Ind. vols. in the battle of Shiloh were twenty killed including Maj. Fred Arm and Capt. Geo. Barry and 107 wounded including Col. Craft.

Casualties of Co. "B." Killed D. Emanuel Huffman. and Joseph W. Williams.

Wounded. C. Lt. A. T. Rose, E. J. Barten,

J. E. Hostetter, Joseph Parr, W. W. Davis Vincen H. Cooksey, and others slightly.

Federal loss in this engagement is estimated at over one thousand killed, over seven thousand wounded and over three thousand missing. Total 13,288. The rebel loss killed over one thousand, wounded over eight thousand; missing, over nine hundred. Total loss of rebels 10,688. The loss on both sides were probably much

there our skirmishers were soon engaged. The 11th Indiana and 8th Missouri rushed into the fight <sup>cheerfully</sup> regiment after regiment in Wallace's division moved on, pushing back the enemy as they ascended the ridge, receiving heavy fire from the rebels we played the part of Bonaparte, and as soon as the <sup>of fire</sup> fury abated we rose and marched forward, thus we gradually neared the enemy's works. We held our line of investment, and the enemy was thrown into confusion.

The Left Wing of the Union line of battle was commanded by General G. F. Smith. his forces had been held in readiness, during the hard struggle on the Right Wing and had held his line of investment ready to move to any given point.

The Right Wing of our Army had regained what we had lost in the morning, and it is now late in the afternoon. The enemy were driven back and confused.



A little later and we were formed  
in line of battle a short distance  
and to the rear and right on the  
top of a ridge, where the enemy appro-  
ached us, crying out "Bunavista"  
and in quick succession poured a  
terrific fire from their musketry.  
But we were eager for revenge, and  
the command was scarcely given by  
Colonel Cruft to fire and charge  
bayonet than the entire brigade  
poured a deadly volley into the rapid  
approaching enemy, and then with  
a deafening roar they leaped forward  
with such a zeal that the enemy  
could not stand the lead and steel  
of Cruft's heroic men, but retreated in  
double quick time, and no more again  
had the pluck to meet us on battle-  
field and cast up to us Bunavista.  
After this gallant charge we were  
moved further to the left, here we  
were formed in line of battle near a  
reverse heading towards the enemy's bre-  
wicks. At this point the country is very much

# Names of members of Co. B, 31<sup>st</sup> Regt Ind, Vol,

Rank  
Residence  
Date of  
Discharge

over 1861

1 Winans Isaac M.	Capt. Cuba	Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Resigned battle at Shiloh
2 Rose Allen J.	Pt Lt. Spencer	"	Resigned, wounded in Promoted 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. 8 Sept
3 Pickens Francis M.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cuba	"	Resigned, Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> 64 Promoted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 8 Sept
4 Haviland Steven S.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sergt. Cuba	"	Res'd Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> 64 Discharged Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> 62
5 Strong Robert	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sergt. Spencer	"	On reason of disability Promoted Hospital Sten died at Savannah Tenn Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> 62
6 Spear John B.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sergt. Spencer	"	Dis. wds, recd, at St. Donelson Tenn. Promoted 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> 63
7 Winans Ira	4 <sup>th</sup> Sergt. Hancock	"	Res. Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> 64 Killed at Ft. Donelson
8 Wells James H.	5 <sup>th</sup> Sergt. Stocton	"	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> 62 Pro. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt killed in battle at Stones River Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> 63
9 Hattum James J.	1 <sup>st</sup> Corp. Spencer	"	Wounded on battle at Chickamauga Ga Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> 63 must out as Sergt. Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> 64
10 Pickens Wesley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Corp. Cuba	"	Dis. Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> 63 disability
11 McKee Robert J.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Corp. Freedom	"	Deserted Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> 61 Killed in battle at St. Donelson Tenn. Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> 62
12 King Orolena	4 <sup>th</sup> Corp. Cuba	"	Dis. wds, recd at Marietta Ga
13 Hulet Robert A.	5 <sup>th</sup> Corp. Hancock	"	Veteran. Mustered out as Sergt. Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> 65
14 Jordan Henry H.	6 <sup>th</sup> Corp. Nandalia	"	Dis. Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup> 63 Disability Ret. Mustered in at drum must out Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> 65 as Corp
15 Kees John H.	7 <sup>th</sup> Corp. Poland	"	Dis. Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> 63
16 Buzzard John B.	8 <sup>th</sup> Corp. Spencer	"	Disability Dis. Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> 62
17 McFaire William H.	Musician Spencer	"	Disability Ret. wds, the battle at Ball's Bluff Tenn Dis. Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> 64
18 Kerven John	Priv. inst. of Spencer	"	Died on the Ohio river on a steamer, Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> 62
19 Pool John J.	Team. Calverdale	"	Dis wds recd in battle at Shiloh Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup> 62
20 Aug John	Priv. Stocton	"	Ret. Discharged Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> 65
21 Antibus William	" Freedom	"	
22 Barnes Steven M.	" Cuba	"	
23 Barten Edward J.	" Arney	"	
24 Boes John	" Cuba	"	

Continued



25 Boes James	Pa Cuba	5. Dis. d Feb. 4 '62. Disability
26 Bessan James W.	" Calasact	6. <sup>Vet</sup> Mustered out Dec. 8 '65. <sup>as</sup> Wds. recd. in battle - <sup>Atlanta</sup> 64
27 Bowen Elliott	" Freedom	" Mustered out Sept. 5 '64
28 Bowen Young	" Stockton	" Dis. d Dec. 1 '62. Disability
29 Brewer John J.	" Cuba	" <sup>Vet</sup> Mustered out Sept. 15 '64.
30 Carpenter Joseph	" Cuba	" Dis. d Mar. 28 '63. Disability
31 Carpenter David	" Cuba	" Dis. d wds. received Marietta Ga.
32 Coffman Jacob	" Cuba	" Died at Calhoun Ky. Dec. 28 '62.
33 Cooksey Vincer H.	" Cuba	" Dis. charged Aug. 19 '62. Wds. Recd. in battle at Shiloh Apr. 6 '62
34 Corns Smith	" Cuba	" Dis. d July 31 '62. Disability
35 Corns James B.	" Cuba	" Promoted to 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. 64
36 Crouse Obediah	" Haverham	" Dis. d Sept. 20 '62. Disability
37 Davis William W.	" Cuba	" Dis. d Sept. 15 '62. Wds. Recd. in battle at Shiloh Apr 6 '62
38 Daniels William H.	" Stockton	" Mustered out Sept. 5 '64.
39 Denny David	" Stockton	" <sup>Vet</sup> Mustered out Dec. 8 '65. as Corp
40 Edgar James	" Cuba	" Died at Nashville Tenn Dec 8 '62.
41 Everett John H.	" Stockton	" Died at Calhoun Ky. Jan. 8 '62.
42 Evans Lewis B.	" Cuba	" Died at Savannah Tenn. Mar. 20 '62.
43 Frock Michael	" Cuba	" <sup>Vet</sup> Died at Bowling-Green Ind. Aug. 15 '64.
44 Fowler Joel	" Cuba	" Mustered out Sept. 5 '64.
45 Frew Charles A.	" Cuba	" Dis. d Aug. 19 '62. Wds. Recd. at Ft. Donelson Tenn. Feb. 15 '62
46 Goff William	" Cuba	" <sup>Vet</sup> Mustered out Dec. 8 '65 as Corp.
47 Goff Henry H.	" Cuba	" Died at Evansville Ind Dec. 30 '63.
48 Gard Lorenzo D	" Cuba	" Mustered out Sept. 15 '64.
49 Ganser Jacob Jacob	" Stockton	" Dis. d, Sept. 20 '62. Disability

ret. mustered out Dec. 8, '65

50 Green John H.	" Spencer "	as Musician
51 Hamlin Eli	" Stockton "	Died Apr. 3, '62 Disability
52 Hamelton Absalom	" Spencer "	Died, Nov. 4, '62. Disability
53 Harden Benjamin F.	" Greenbottle "	Died at Calhoun H. F. Dec. 17, '61.
54 Highnote James H.	" Poland "	Vet. Deserted June 20, '65
55 Horn George	" Spencer "	Died Oct. 27, '62. Disability
56 Huffman Emanuel	" Spencer "	Killed at Shiloh Apr. 6, '62
57 Hostetter John E.	" Lancaster "	Died Apr. 30, '62 Wds. R. & D. at Shiloh Apr. 6, '62.
58 Jordan Jacob B.	" Vandalia "	Deserted June 8, '62.
59 Johnson Disberry	" Hausertown "	Transferred V. R. & C. Aug. 15, '63.
60 Kenoyer Joseph	" Freedom "	Died Mar. 27, '63 Wds. R. & D. at Stone River Tenn.
61 Lenzberger Lewis	" Hausertown "	as Corp. Mustered out Dec. 8, '65. Wds. Ret. Died, June 20, '65. 2a
62 Leonard Oliver	" Cataract "	Wds 4 July '64, near Marietta.
63 Mc Mahan Francis M.	" Spencer "	Killed at Ft. Donelson Feb. 15, '62
64 McClair William	" Point Commerce "	Mustered out Sept 15, '64.
65 McGuire William F.	" Spencer "	Died, Mar. 29, '62. Disability
66 McIndoo Jefferson	" Spencer "	Died, Jan 15, '63. Disability
67 McKee Albert B.	" Freedom "	Deserted June 15, '62.
68 McBride Gabriel	" Freedom "	Deserted June 8, '62.
69 Mishler Daniel	" Hausertown "	Vet. Mustered out Dec. 8, '65, as Sgt.
70 Needy John W.	" Stockton "	Died, Dec. 24, '62. Disability wounded at Rocky Face ridge
71 Nelson William H.	" Poland "	Mustered out Jan. 30, '65. Ret. Mustered out Dec. 8, '65. as Corp.
72 Nichols Gasper A.	" Freedom "	Died at Farmington Miss. July 7, '62.
73 Nihart Simon P.	" Marts "	Vet. Died Jan. 10, '65. wds
74 Pool Andrew J.	" Cataract "	



Name	Pri reside nce	Remarks
75 Pool John D. Jr.	" Cataract "	Dised Nov. 27 '62, Disability
76 Phillips William H.	" Cuba "	Deserted Nov. 20 '61.
77 Richard James	" Freedom "	Dised Jan. 14 '63, Disability
78 Parr Joseph P	" Cuba "	Dised, Aug. 25 '62, Wds Recd at Shiloh Tenn. Apr. 6 '63.
79 Pettit William H.	" Cuba "	Mustered out Sept. 15 '64, as Corp.
80 Ranken Samuel C.	" Spence "	Killed at Ft. Donelson, Feb. 15 '62
81 Rose William D.	" Spence "	Dischd, Jan. 20 '63, by order of the War Dpt.
82 Reynolds James M.	" Poland "	Killed at Stone River Dec. 30 '62.
83 Rhoderick John	" Arney "	Dised, Feb. 20 '63, Disability
84 Seidle Simon	" Stockton "	Died at Nashville Tenn. Sept. 24 '62.
85 Sipple James M.	" Cataract "	as Corp Mustered out Sept. 15 '64
86 Smith Augustus	" Stockton "	Dischd Jan. 4 '62 Disability
87 Shanahan Michael	" Stockton "	vet. Died at Louisville Ky., Aug. 10 '64. Wds.
88 Stevens Isaac C.	" Cataract "	Deserted at Shiloh, Reins-taken, Deserted at Chickamauga
89 Talley Oren J	" Freedom "	Died at Henderson Ky. Oct. 30 '61.
90 Tipton Vincent	" Patrick "	Died at Evansville Ind. May 15 '62
91 Tompson Thomas	" Burg "	Dischd, Sept. 18 '62, Wds, at Ft. Donelson, Feb. 15 '62.
92 Todd John M.	" Vandalia "	Died at Evansville Ind. Mar. 15 '62.
93 Walden Samuel	" Cuba "	Mustered out Sept. 15 '64
94 Williams Jacob B.	" Cuba "	vet. Died at Nashville Tenn. Aug. 22 '64.
95 Williams Joseph W.	" Vandalia "	Killed at Shiloh Tenn. Apr. 6 '62, as Sergt
96 Woodburn James M.	" Patrick "	vet. Promoted 2. Lt.
97 Whitaker William W.	" Burg "	Mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
98 Wright Andrew J.	" Vandalia "	vet. Mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
99 Gant Lethalt	" Cuba "	Dised Feb. 4 '62, Disability
	" Cataract "	Died at Calhoun Ky. Jan. 12 '62

Recruits		Dis- posed of	Remarks
100	Adams Benjamin F.	Nov. 15 '64	Deserted July 8 '65. Drafted.
101	Barnabas James M.	Mar. 16 '64	Mustered out May 10 '65
102	Bing George C.	Oct. 18 '64	Mustered <sup>out</sup> Oct. 18 '65, substituted
103	Bain Samuel A.	Oct. 8 '64	Mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
104	Beck Alexander L.	Sept. 26 '64	Mustered out June 30 '65. Drft. Died at Lewisville, Tex., Feb. 8 '65, wounds
105	Bolden James M.	"	
106	Campbell Milton	Nov. 15 '64	Deserted July 8 '65. Drafted mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
107	Cayton Silas	Mar. 16 '64	as Corp'l Killed at Rocky face Ridge May 11 '64.
108	Close John F.	Mar. 16 '64	Died at Nashville Tenn. May 20 '65.
109	Cole George W.	Mar. 7 '64	Mustered out June 21 '65 Drafted substitute. Mustered out
110	Carley James M.	Sept. 22 '64	Nov. 11 '65 as Corp'l Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
111	Carley Silas	Sept. 7 '64	substitute mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
112	Clow James M.	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
113	Dine Andrew J.	Oct. 3 '64	substitute mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
114	Eason Jacob	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
115	Flown Charles	Oct. 19 '64	substitute. Deserted June 29 '65.
116	Fisher Elijah	Sept. 26 '64	Died at Nashville Tenn. Mar. 19 '65.
117	Hodges William G.	Mar. 16 '64	Killed at Nashville Tenn. Dec. 15 '64.
118	Hunter Virgil H.	Nov. 15 '64	substitute. Died June 20 '65.
119	Honeycut Jesse	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
120	Infield John	Mar. 6 '64	volunteer mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
121	Ingraham Ezekial	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
122	Ingraham Andrew G.	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out Aug. 5 '65.
123	Johnson John H.	Oct. 16 '64	Mustered out Oct. 18 '65 as Sergt.

Continued



# Recruits

	Prin	Date	Remarks
124 Jones William W.	"	Oct. 13 '64	Substitute. Mustered out Oct. 18 '65. as Sergt.
125 Kirby Eliza	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
126 Larison Perry	"	Dec. 7 '61	Volunteer. Died at home July. 27 '62.
127 Larison William	"	Mar. 16 '64	Mustered out Dec. 8 '65. Vet. Mustered out
128 Leonard William	"	Mar. 16 '64	Dec. 8 '65. as Corp'l Vet. Mustered out
129 Morris John B.	"	Dec. 7 '61	Dec. 8 '65.
130 Moore Samuel W.	"	Oct. 17 '64	Mustered out Oct. 18 '65. as Sergt.
131 Melay William	"	Oct. 7 '64	Substitute Mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
132 McBarty Michael	"	Oct. 7 '64	Substitute. Mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
133 Mann William	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 25 '65.
134 Marley Andrew J	"	Sept. 26 '64	Died at Huntsville Ala. Mar. 27 '65. Drafted
135 Osborn Samuel S.	"	Aug. 5 '62	Promoted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. U.S. Colored Troops
136 Palmer Asa S.	"	Dec. 7 '61	Killed in battle at Rocky face Ridge May 11 '64.
137 Poynter Jessa A.	"	Mar. 16 '64	Mustered out as Musician Dec. 8 '65.
138 Palmer Nelson W.	"	Mar. 16 '64	Mustered out Dec. 8 '65.
139 Root Samuel S.	"	Oct. 19 '64	Substitute. Mustered out Oct. 18 '65.
140 Reynolds Amos	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
141 Russell George	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
142 Reeves George	"	Dec. 7 '61	Discharged Sept 20 '62. Disability
143 Stage Henry A	"	Mar. 16 '64	Died at Nashville Tenn. July 25 '64.
144 Smith Andrew J	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out May 23 '65.
145 Snow Thomas	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65.
146 Stuckey Samuel A	"	Sept. 26 '64	Drafted. Mustered out June 21 '65. as Corp'l
147 Tankersly George	"	Sept. 26 '64	Died at Nashville Tenn May 14 '65. Drafted

(Jas. H. Welch Book)

Company "B, 31<sup>st</sup> Indiana Volunteer  
Infantry" was organized by Isaac  
V. Wiggins, Alex. L. Ross and Frank  
M. Pickens. Their method of recru-  
iting volunteers was something like  
this: They secured a drummer and  
fifer and started over the country  
making the hills echo with their  
martial music stopping at small  
villages and public places where  
after one or two stirring war speeches  
were made they would call for  
volunteers. - The musicians would  
strike up a lively tune and march  
about, and any one that had a desire  
to offer up his life for his country  
and flag would fall in line and  
march in rear of the martial band.  
The writer of this sketch fell in at  
Stracy, a small country village in the  
County of Owen and State of Indiana  
and afterwards attended the various  
meetings with the organizers and  
assisting in filling up the company.  
we went on foot, horse back in  
review occurring in various new country; the  
works at the time the country is very much  
out of repair.



wagons or buggies each one to suit  
his own convenience or fancy.  
Finally after several days of drumming  
and speech making we had our full  
complement of one hundred and one  
men. Our Headquarters were established  
at Santafee in the north part of  
Owen County, and those that wished  
to go home could do so but were required  
to be ready to report when marching  
orders were received. But we were not  
permitted to stay at home long, We were  
soon called to gether to elect our com-  
pany officers and get ready to report  
to Camp Vigo Terre Haute Indiana  
The electing of company officers resulted  
as follows:

For Capt, Isaac C. Winans of Cuba  
First Lieut, Allen J. Rose of Spencer  
Second Lieut, Francis M. Prehens of Cuba  
Ord, Sergt, Steven S. Haviland of Cuba  
Capt. Winans served in the Mexican  
war and he proved to be a good

war, and the officers always prompt  
and brave officers always prompt

to discharge his duty and ready  
to contend for the welfare of his  
men, he made a good record as an  
officer, but was thought at first  
by some to be rather more strict  
than necessity required, but we all  
learned before we served in the army  
a year that strict discipline was  
a matter of necessity.

Lieut. Allen J. Rose also served in  
Mexican war and received a slight  
wound in the head <sup>in an engagement</sup> during that war  
Lieut. Rose was a genial whole souled  
man always cheerful and lively, was  
ready at any time to tell a cheerful  
story to the boys and was a general  
favorite with the entire 31<sup>st</sup> Regt.  
and in battle he would go as far  
in the front as any other man  
and would never ask his men to  
stay longer than he would stay.

Lieut. Pickens was a young  
man and noted for his kindness  
and pleasant manner of addressing  
men <sup>under his</sup> command, he was a good  
reverse receiving in various ways  
works at the <sup>the country is very much</sup> ~~the country is very much~~ <sup>and out of the way</sup>



officer and a great favorite with the men, was brave and used good judgment in time of an engagement.

Orderly Haviland was prompt in discharging his duties as orderly sergeant for the company.

I think the members of company B, made a good selection of officers, all seemed to be satisfied and ready and waiting for marching orders.

Finally we received the welcome news that we were under orders to report at Camp Vigo, Terrehaute, and at once started for that place; we embarked on the cars at Gosport about the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1861, and arrived in camp Vigo late in the evening of the same day. Several companies were in camp when we arrived, and they gave us a hearty welcome. The members of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ind. will ever remember the good times we had there and the kind and benevolent people of Terrehaute and vicinity, we more fully appreciated their

similarity, we more fully ascertained the

tack and bow-belly in the sunny  
south and land of daisy -

The 35<sup>th</sup> Ind. Vol. was mustered into the United  
States service on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September  
1861 by Lieut. Col. T. J. Wood, W. S. A.,  
with more than a minimum, which was  
increased to the maximum by the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a detachment of five companies  
was ordered to Evansville Ind. and were  
furnished with arms, and advanced  
immediately to Lock No. 1, on Green  
River Ky., which was threatened by  
the enemy. Company "B" with the rest  
of the regiment followed to Evansville  
a few days after, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October  
the entire regiment was ordered to Hen-  
derson, Ky., and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November  
it marched to Calhoun, where it  
remained in camp two months and  
a half, and was regularly and thor-  
oughly drilled. Here we had the wine  
press of affliction, Measles, mumps  
and a low grade of fever prevailed  
extensively, and many were lost to the  
service by disease and death.

reverse meaning to wars the enemy's mea-  
sures. At the time the country is very much  
out of repair.



At camp at Calhoun, Company B, lost  
by death, four, Benjamin E. Harden  
died December 17<sup>th</sup> 1861, cause of death  
Jacob Coffman died January 8<sup>th</sup> 1862  
disease fever, John H. Everett, died  
January 8<sup>th</sup> 1862, disease fever.

Dewalt Gant, January 12<sup>th</sup> 1862, disease  
fever. These four boys entered the service  
by all appearance robust, sound able  
bodied young men and were always  
ready and willing to do their part of  
duty while with the company, but  
were stricken down by that low  
grade of fever in the early part of  
our service. Prior to the death of said  
comrades we had lost but one mem-  
ber of Co. "B." by disease and that was  
Orin J. Talley who died October 30<sup>th</sup> 1861  
in hospital at Henderson Ky, disease  
measles, he died a true patriot the  
writer of this sketch very well remem-  
bers the dying soldiers last words, and  
they were that he did not fear to die  
but regretted to have to go where he could

but regretted to have to go before he could

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January the regiment was ordered to South Carlisle where it remained two weeks here we endured the hardships of a camp life, cold rains, sleet and snow, fell in abundance. The men contracted colds, neuralgia and rheumatism, Notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances in which they were placed, they continued cheerful.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January the regiment returned to Calhoun. Left Calhoun, on board the Steamer Ben J. Adams on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February and arrived at Paduca on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the next morning we headed towards Fort Henry, but returned without disembarking. The regiment reached Fort Donelson on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and engaged the enemy early the next morning.

The expedition against Fort Donelson was under command of Gen, W. S. Frank Commodore, Foot, with his gunboats acted in concert with him.

reverse heading is towards the enemy's bre-  
works. At this time the country is very muc-



The Divisions were commanded as follows:

First Division - Gen. M. Sherman

First Brigade - Col. Ogelsby

Second Brigade - Col. W. H. D. Wallace

Second Division - Gen. C. F. Smith

First Brigade - Col. Cook

Second Brigade - Col. Lawman

Third Division - Gen. Lew. Wallace

First Brigade - Col. Cruft

Second Brigade - Col. Thayer

A Brigade, commanded by Col. Morgan L. Smith composed of the eight Missouri and Eleventh Indiana joined Gen. Lew. Wallace's division while the fight was in progress.

The Thirty first Indiana had been assigned to the Third Division commanded by Gen. Lew. Wallace, and in the First Brigade commanded by Col. Cruft, composed of the <sup>2nd</sup> ~~seventh~~ and ~~twelfth~~ <sup>th</sup> ~~th~~

Regiment commanded by Col. [unclear], [unclear],  
commanded the [unclear] and [unclear] [unclear]

Gen. McBlernard's division moved by the telegraph road directly upon Fort Donelson. Oglesby's Brigade being in the advance, another brigade of the same division moved by the Dover road. Gen. C. F. Smith's division also took the Dover road, followed by the division of Gen - Lew Wallace.

The column pushed forward, the men being in good spirits, and in excellent condition. Presently firing was heard in the front. The Eighth Illinois had come in contact with the advance pickets of the enemy, and after a slight skirmish, compelled them to retire.

This was a strong position. The preparations made by the enemy for its defense were very extensive. The water batteries were well located to control river navigation. At the lower battery were mounted eight thirty-two pounders, and one ten inch columbiad. At the upper battery were mounted one rifled thirty-two pounder and

reverse heading towards the enemy's bre. works. At this point the country is very much



two thirty-two pound carronades. Both these batteries were sunk in the hillside. They were elevated about thirty feet above the water, when the gun boats made their attack. The main fort was on a high elevation in rear of these two batteries. The out works consisted of rifle pits and fell trees forming a difficult obstruction to the advance of our troops.

Gen's, Buckner, Floyd and Pillow, commanded the Confederate forces, and before day-light on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, in the midst of a heavy snow storm, the enemy left their works and evidently intended to break through our lines. But in this they failed. Gen, Grant, sleepless and vigilant, had visited the out posts and instructed the <sup>sentries</sup> to be on the alert. It was a dreary night. Cold and biting, air filled with snow.

But amidst all this discomfort the Federal soldiers that stood on pickets

Federal Soldiers that stood on pickets  
ever true to their trust, at times  
speaking in low tones at the reserve  
post where the Thirty first Hossier  
boys were stationed. Their conversation  
were about friends at home, and the  
many pleasant parties they had  
met on Volentine night when  
they were placed under more favor-  
able circumstances than they were on  
that memorable night of the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
During the night a shell from  
the enemies works would come  
whizzing and tearing through the  
timber, but fortunately doing no  
harm. Suddenly and before  
day light our advance pickets  
saw a dark mass moving over the  
snow clad earth, the alarm was  
given and the pickets were reenfor-  
ced. The enemy was baffled in his  
attempt of surprise.

Gen. McLernand commanded the  
right wing of our army. And it  
was on Ogilby brigade of his divis-  
that the enemy first hurled the  
rebel thunder of fire from their batteries.



The rebels charged upon the lines of McBlernands men, But they were gallantly met by the Illinois troops, into the enemy they poured a deadly fire. Then Taylor's battery and McBlister's two guns met them with a storm of grape and shell and the brigade charging, drove the enemy back to their intrenchments. The struggle was a hard one. The bayonet, the bowie knife, and the butt end of the musket was freely used, Blood flowed profusely staining the snow-clad earth with crimson. Fresh masses of the enemy poured forth from the woods.

McBlernands gallant men still fought bravely. The contest had lasted for some time. The right wing was engaged when their ammunition gave out, they were compelled to fall back, which they did in good order. The enemy poured forth in dense masses and captured Schenck's battery and the first brigade.

Early in the morning, and while the battle was in progress, it

Early in the morning, and while the battle raged desperately on the right, Torbert's brigade was hurried to the front, on arriving near the line of battle we met <sup>some</sup> Mc Clellan's noble men who had been overpowered and compelled to fall back. Some wounded and bleeding as they retired one soldier shot in the back dragging himself to the rear. We had advanced but a few rods from where we met the wounded soldiers. Then we met the enemy pouring forth in dense masses. Companies "B", "D" and "K" commanded by St. Rose, Walls and Smith, became hotly engaged with the enemy, and held him at bay in their front until almost surrounded by the rebels, pouring in on the right and left of us. It is doing nothing more than justice to these brave officers and men, to say they merited the highest honors as Union soldiers.



Company "B," lost in this engagement  
in the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> killed  
Corp, James J. Shaulum,  
Priv, Samuel O. Rankin

" Francis M. McMahon

Corp Henry H. Jordan was fatally  
wounded and died shortly afterwards  
at Paducah K. Y.

Priv, Thomas Townsend received a  
severe wound in the face and was  
left on the battlefield for dead, and  
was taken prisoner by the enemy, made  
his escape when our troops rallied  
and drove the enemy back. He lay  
between the two lines of battle for  
some time that day. Other members  
of Co. "B," were wounded slightly.

After our first engagement in the  
morning and having fell back to  
a suitable place on the top of a  
ridge a short distance in the rear  
of where we were engaged in the  
first attack, Col. Cruft formed  
his brigade in line of battle and

which was not long in making its appearance through the heavy undergrowth, as they advanced up the ridge, we observed that quite a number of blue overcoats were worn by the advancing troops and presently a flag was seen winding its way through the brush, resembling that of our national flag. This began to create some doubts among our officers as to who they were finally inquiry was made by some of the officers of the 81<sup>st</sup> Ind, as to what troops they were, or if a friend or a foe, The reply was a foe and then yelled out Bunavista, and fired a volley at us, No sooner done than Col. Cruft ordered his brigade to fire and charge bayonet, The charge was gallantly made, and the rebels retreated towards their intrenchments And the stigma that was cast at the Indiana soldiers by Jeff Davis at Bunavista Mexico, wiped out.



After the charge made by Crufts  
brigade we changed position by  
moving to the left of where we made  
the charge, in a reverse where the  
bullets were flying pretty thick,  
and if I remember right, a bullet  
passed through Col. Crufts head  
At this place the battlefield was very  
much broken cut up by ravines, hills  
and out cropping rocks, and heavy un-  
dergrowth. It was at this part of the  
battle field that the Eleventh Indiana  
and Eight Missouri marched at the  
head of Gen. Lew. Wallas Division the  
two regiments commanded by Col. Morgan  
L. Smith. Crufts brigade followed,  
and Col. Ross with two Ohio regiments  
on the left flank of the assailing force  
Col. Morgan L. Smith rushed at once  
into the fight. Our skirmishers soon  
engaged the rebel pickets, who retired  
contesting the advance. Meantime the  
regiments pushed on ascending the

Instantly the regiments lay down and as soon as the fury of the fire abated they rose and marched forward, thus they gradually neared the enemies intrenchments. The enemy was pursued untill he reached his main works; We held our line of investment, and the enemy was thrown in to confusion. The left of our line of battle which was commanded by Gen. C. F. Smith's force was held, and had regained what we had lost on the right.

The decisive moment had come. Then Gen. Grant ordered a charge along the whole line. Gen. C. F. Smith was ordered to lead the assault in heavy columns the troops of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri moved forward upon the foe steadily they moved on. The enemy's fire would decimate our ranks, but closing up pushed on untill the enemy recoiled, and their works were gained. Our men poured a volley into their ranks, and they fled.



Our troops held their out works.  
Night put an end to the battle.

Our troops watched and waited  
for the morning. We gried as they  
were, few slept that night for  
the night was cold and we were  
not permitted to have any fire, so  
near the enemies lines. Thus we  
lay by our arms on the cold wet  
ground waiting for the results of  
the approaching day. Finally at the  
gray dawn of day on the morning of  
the 16<sup>th</sup>, we saw numerous little white  
flags stuck up on the enemies  
breast works, and a little later the  
joyful news reached us that the rebels  
had surrendered.

Gen. Buckner surrendered to Gen.  
Grant the fort and thirteen  
thousand men. Twelve thousand  
stand of arms, forty eight field pieces  
and seventeen siege guns, provisions  
and camp equipage valued at a mill-

The enemy lost about three hundred killed, and one thousand wounded.

Our loss was three hundred and fifty five killed, and fourteen hundred wounded.

The battle field presented a frightful spectacle, all the way to the intrenchment, a distance of about two miles lay the dead and dying. I could think of nothing more terrible as I looked upon these mangled bodies lying strewn over the battle-field some with eyes wide open pale in death others with musket in hand ready to fire and others lying in heaps as they were mowed down by the enemies artillery.

This was the first hard fought battle in which the Thirty-first Indiana participated, and its commander was Major Arn who led it into battle <sup>with</sup> coolness and undaunted bravery always at his post no matter what the danger was he never shrank from duty.



The surrender of Fort Donelson was disastrous to the enemy. aside from the loss of men and material, its capture opened the way to Nashville, and involved the surrender of that city. It gave the whole State of Kentucky and the greater part of Tennessee. It compelled the rebel Gen. Johnson to evacuate Bowling-Green, before the advance of Gen. Buels troops and opened to the Union forces a long extent of navigable rivers penetrating the very heart of the Southern Confederacy. Bowling Green was evacuated while the fight was in progress at Fort Donelson.

Gen. Johnson fell back to Nashville thence to Memphis. The sudden departure of the rebels at Nashville caused a scene seldom witnessed. The whole population were seized with terror. The members of the State Government were the last to leave. Gen. Harris

were the first to leave Fort Henry

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Company 'B' marched with the other companies of the 31<sup>st</sup> Indiana and a part of Gen. Grant's army to Fort Henry, a distance of about twelve miles. The route lay over high ridges through a densely wooded country with scarcely the sign of a human habitation. Fort Henry is on the right bank of the Tennessee river, about seventy miles above its junction with the Ohio. We remained here until the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, when we marched five miles up the Tennessee River, and embarked for Pittsburg Landing on board the *Fanny Brillitt*, on the 16<sup>th</sup> we landed and went immediately on picket being the first regiment to go ashore. We went into camp about one mile from the landing with other regiments of Col. Cruft's brigade and in Gen. Hurlbut's Division which lay on the road leading from Pittsburg Landing to Corinth a distance of about twenty miles.



The situation of the country at  
and near Pittsburg Landing.

Nothing of much importance is to  
be observed at the Landing. Save  
one old building used I presume  
in former days for storing away  
goods. transported <sup>to</sup> that point by the  
steam boats and probably the prod-  
ucts of that country designed to be  
shipped to other points.

Along the Tennessee to the East  
are ravines. South of the Landing  
is Lick creek, which winds its  
way through the hills, which  
slope gradually towards the battle  
field. Owl creek near Lick creek  
flows to the north east, around  
the battle field, into Snake creek  
and Snake creek empties into the  
Tennessee river some distance below  
Lick creek. Back from the landing is  
table land elevated quite a number  
of feet above the valley land.

~~There is a small place named Tipton~~





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